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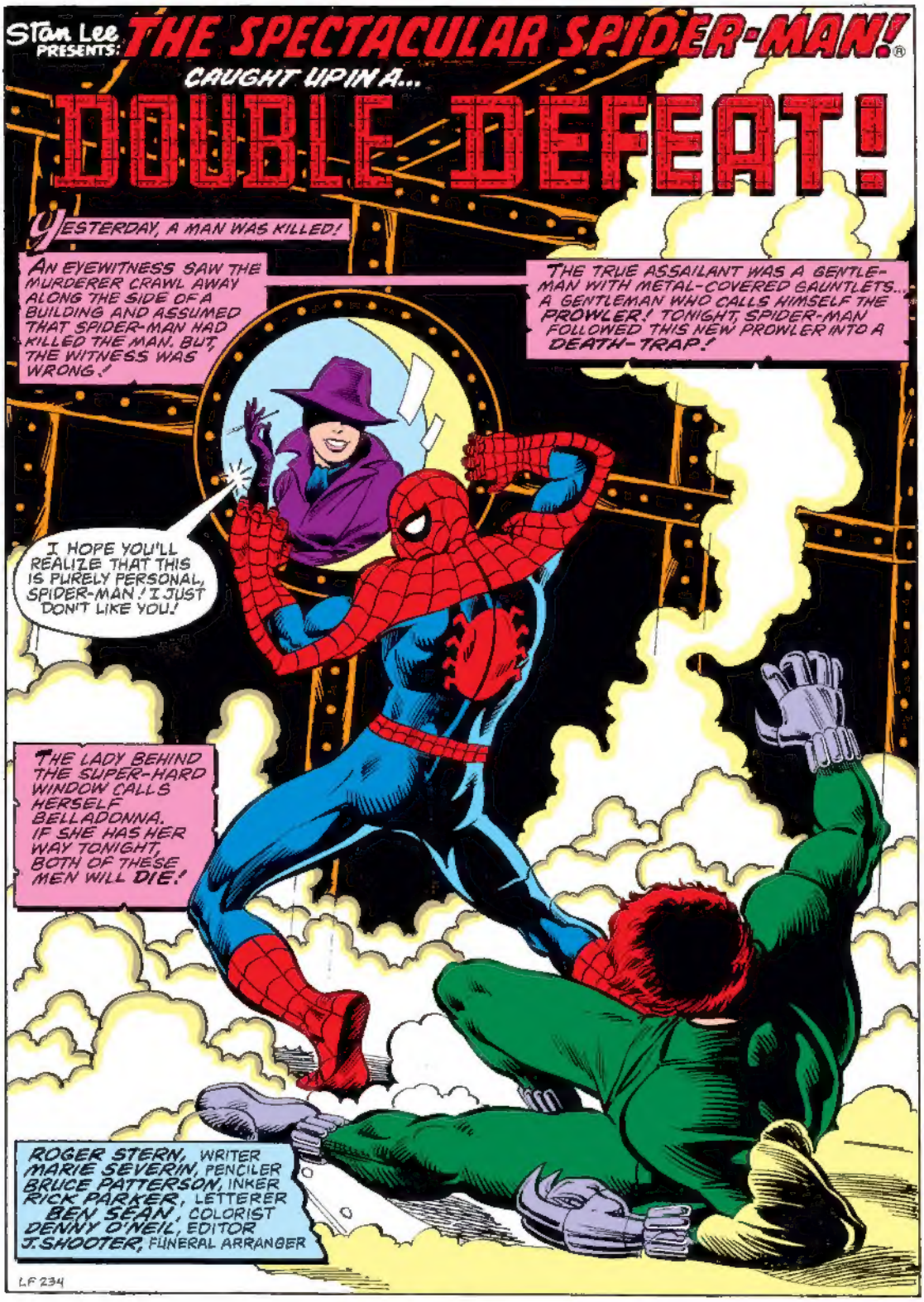
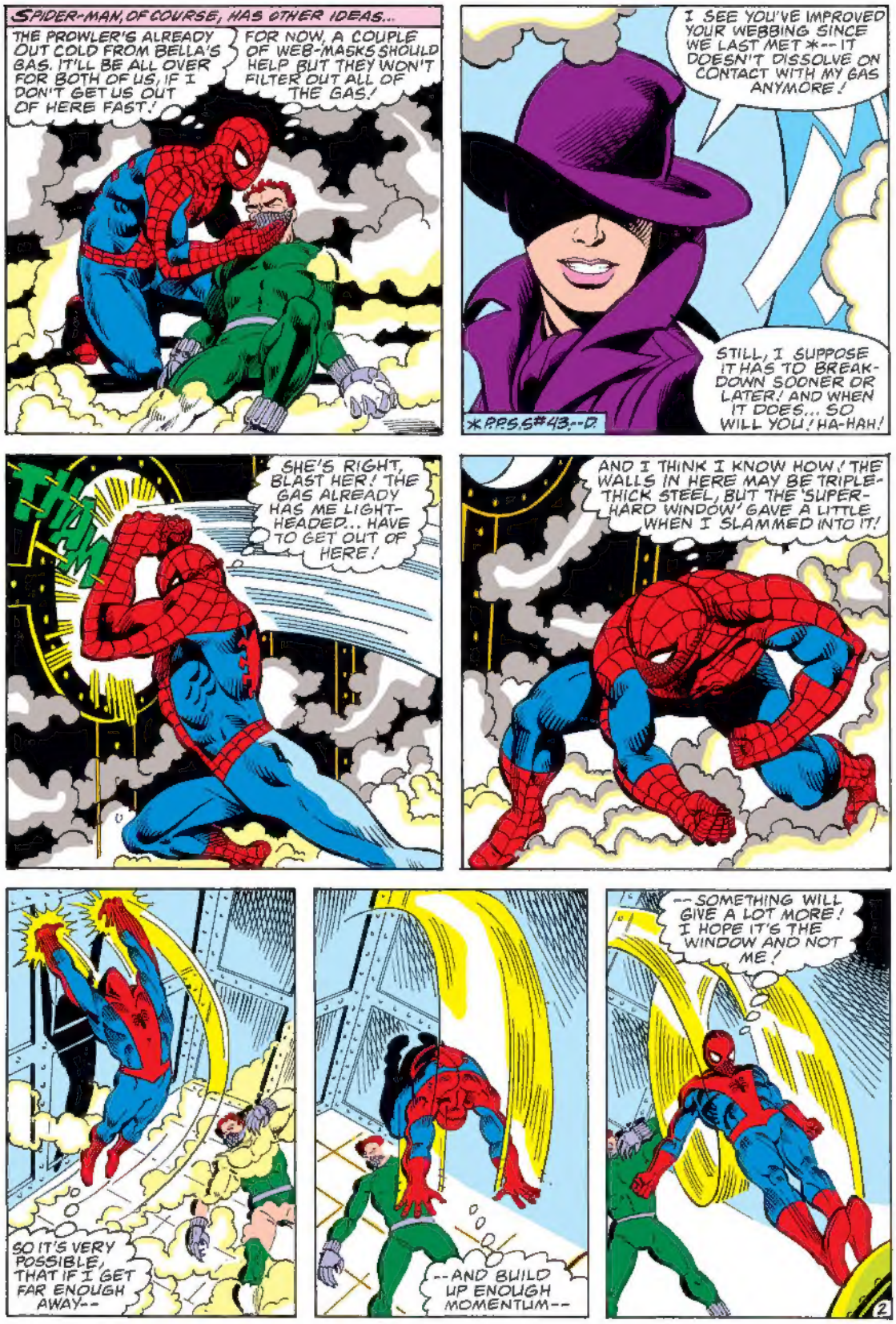
PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

Four seconds ago Kingsley pulled the trigger . . . now there's no one else alive. Somewhere, Belladonna is laughing.


Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!®
CAUGHT UP IN A...
DOUBLE DEFEAT!
YESTERDAY, A MAN WAS KILLED!
AN EYEWITNESS SAW THE MURDERER CRAWL AWAY ALONG THE SIDE OF A BUILDING AND ASSUMED THAT SPIDER-MAN HAD KILLED THE MAN. BUT, THE WITNESS WAS WRONG!
THE TRUE ASSAILANT WAS A GENTLEMAN WITH METAL-COVERED GAUNTLETS... A GENTLEMAN WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE PROWLER! TONIGHT, SPIDER-MAN FOLLOWED THIS NEW PROWLER INTO A DEATH-TRAP!
I HOPE YOU'LL REALIZE THAT THIS IS PURELY PERSONAL, SPIDER-MAN! I JUST DON'T LIKE YOU!
THE LADY BEHIND THE SUPER-HARD WINDOW CALLS HERSELF BELLADONNA. IF SHE HAS HER WAY TONIGHT, BOTH OF THESE MEN WILL DIE!
ROGER STERN, WRITER
MARIE SEVERIN, PENCILER
BRUCE PATTERSON, INKER
RICK PARKER, LETTERER
BEN SEAN, COLORIST
DENNY O'NEIL, EDITOR
J. SHOOTER, FUNERAL ARRANGER
LF 234


SPIDER-MAN, OF COURSE, HAS OTHER IDEAS...
THE PROWLER'S ALREADY OUT COLD FROM BELLA'S GAS. IT'LL BE ALL OVER FOR BOTH OF US, IF I DON'T GET US OUT OF HERE FAST!
FOR NOW, A COUPLE OF WEB-MASKS SHOULD HELP BUT THEY WON'T FILTER OUT ALL OF THE GAS!
I SEE YOU'VE IMPROVED YOUR WEBBING SINCE WE LAST MET *-- IT DOESN'T DISSOLVE ON CONTACT WITH MY GAS ANYMORE!
STILL, I SUPPOSE IT HAS TO BREAK-DOWN SOONER OR LATER! AND WHEN IT DOES... SO WILL YOU! HA-HAH!
*P.P.S. #43.--D.
THAM
SHE'S RIGHT, BLAST HER! THE GAS ALREADY HAS ME LIGHT-HEADED... HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!
AND I THINK I KNOW HOW! THE WALLS IN HERE MAY BE TRIPLE-THICK STEEL, BUT THE 'SUPER-HARD WINDOW' GAVE A LITTLE WHEN I SLAMMED INTO IT!
SO IT'S VERY POSSIBLE, THAT IF I GET FAR ENOUGH AWAY--
--AND BUILD UP ENOUGH MOMENTUM--
--SOMETHING WILL GIVE A LOT MORE! I HOPE IT'S THE WINDOW AND NOT ME!
2

KRESH!
ALL RIGHT... IT WORKED!
WHAT THE HEY--?! BELLA'S NOT HERE! THERE'S JUST SOME SORT OF VIDEO HOOK-UP!

SURPRISED, SPIDER-MAN?
A LITTLE, BELLA! THAT DISTORTION GLASS PRODUCED A PRETTY CONVINCING 3-D EFFECT!

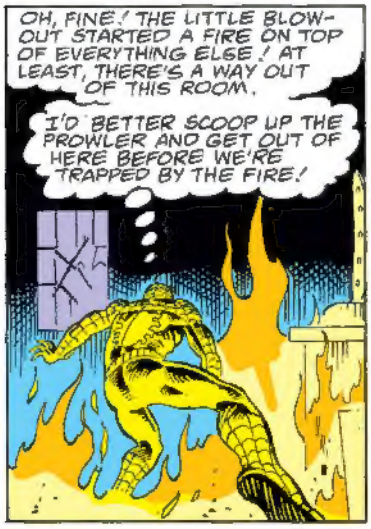
BUT I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU WOULDN'T RISK FACING ME IN PERSON IF YOU COULD HELP IT!
VERY PERCEPTIVE! AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, YOU ARE TOO... TOO STRANGE FOR MY TASTES!

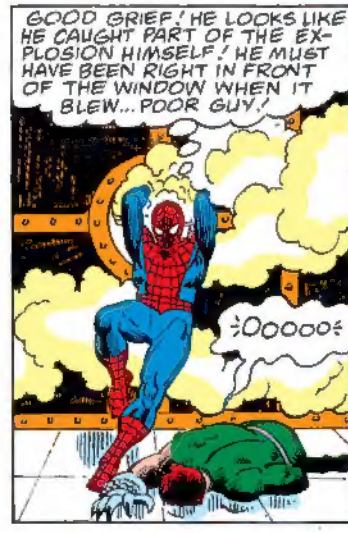
BUT EVEN AS SPIDER-MAN CONFRONTS BELLADONNA'S VIDEO MONITOR... IN THE STEEL-PLATED DEATH-TRAP, THE GAS DISSIPATES AND THE PROWLER COMES TO...
UNNGH! I THOUGHT... I WAS... A GONER FOR SURE, THAT TIME!

I'M STRANGE? AND I SUPPOSE YOU'RE NORMAL?!
SPIDER-MAN! DON'T KNOW WHO HE'S TALKING TO, BUT I CAN'T PASS UP A CHANCE LIKE THIS!

BUT, AS THE PROWLER TAKES CAREFUL AIM WITH HIS WRIST-BANDS...
WHOA! MY SPIDER-SENSE IS BUZZING LIKE CRAZY... LIKE THERE'S DANGER ALL AROUND!

BUT AS THE WEBBED WONDER DIVES FOR THE FLOOR, IT ISN'T THE PROWLER'S WRIST-DARTS WHICH PRESENT THE GREATEST DANGER...
KWOMF!
...IT IS THE SHAPED EXPLOSIVE CHARGE DEEP WITHIN THE VIDEO MONITOR, WHICH SENDS A SHOWER OF GLASS AND SHRAPNEL... STRAIGHT TOWARD THE SHATTERED WINDOW!
WOW! I GOTTA HAND IT TO BELLADONNA-- SHE EVEN PLANNED A BACK-UP BOOBY-TRAP! I MUST REALLY FREAK HER OUT!


OH, FINE! THE LITTLE BLOW-OUT STARTED A FIRE ON TOP OF EVERYTHING ELSE! AT LEAST, THERE'S A WAY OUT OF THIS ROOM.
I'D BETTER SCOOP UP THE PROWLER AND GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE WE'RE TRAPPED BY THE FIRE!

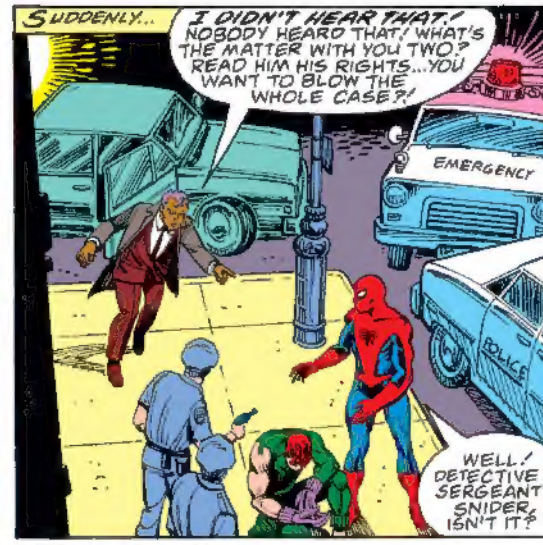

GOOD GRIEF! HE LOOKS LIKE HE CAUGHT PART OF THE EXPLOSION HIMSELF! HE MUST HAVE BEEN RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE WINDOW WHEN IT BLEW... POOR GUY!
:OOOOO:

AND, AS SPIDER-MAN SHOULDERS THE SEMI-CONSCIOUS PROWLER OUT OF THE DEATH-CHAMBER...
SPRINKLERS! WELL, I WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT GETTING CHAR-BROILED, NOW--

--BUT, KNOWING MY LUCK, I'LL PROBABLY COME DOWN WITH PNEUMONIA!
AH! POLICE, FIRE, AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES! JUST WHAT I NEED TO CLEAR THIS UP!
4

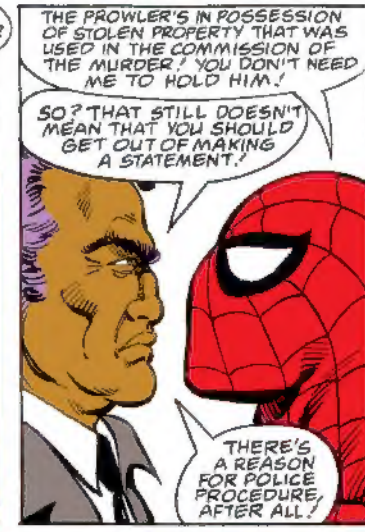
AND SOON...
SO YOU SEE, BOYS, THIS NEW PROWLER IS THE GENT YOU WANT TO TALK TO ABOUT THE KILLING-- NOT ME!
GET AN AMBULANCE OVER HERE-- ON THE DOUBLE!

LEMME GET THIS STRAIGHT... YOU'RE ACCUSING THIS MAN OF KILLING CHARLIE McGUIRE?
LISTEN, IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! I DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL THE GUY--IT JUST... HAPPENED!


SUDDENLY...
I DIDN'T HEAR THAT! NOBODY HEARD THAT! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU TWO? READ HIM HIS RIGHTS... YOU WANT TO BLOW THE WHOLE CASE?!
EMERGENCY
POLICE
WELL! DETECTIVE SERGEANT SNIDER, ISN'T IT?

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THIS PART OF TOWN... A LITTLE OUT OF YOUR PRECINCT, AREN'T YOU?
YOU SEEM TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT ME--WISH I COULD SAY THE SAME ABOUT YOU! LET ME TELL YOU A FEW THINGS!

I'M HERE BECAUSE OF YOU! YOU WERE THE SUSPECT IN A MURDER CASE OF MINE... EVIDENTLY THAT'S CHANGED NOW!
BUT I STILL GOTTA TAKE YOU IN FOR QUESTIONING!


THE PROWLER'S IN POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY THAT WAS USED IN THE COMMISSION OF THE MURDER! YOU DON'T NEED ME TO HOLD HIM!
SO? THAT STILL DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU SHOULD GET OUT OF MAKING A STATEMENT!
THERE'S A REASON FOR POLICE PROCEDURE, AFTER ALL!

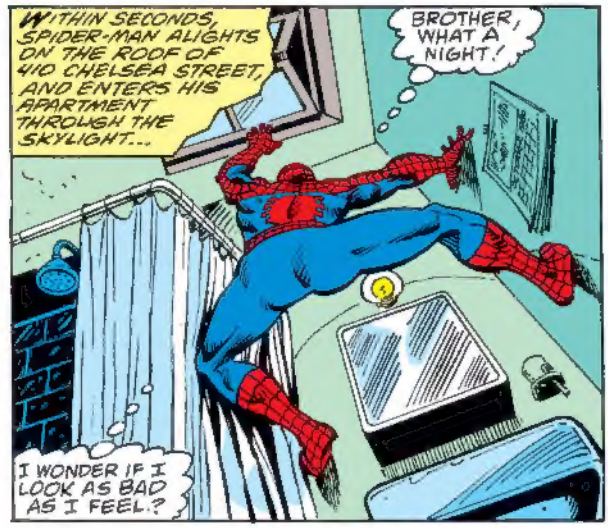
IF MORE PEOPLE WOULD REALIZE THAT, WE MIGHT GET A FEW MORE CONVICTIONS... GET A FEW MORE FELONS OFF THE STREETS!
COME ON, LET'S GO DOWN TO THE STATION HOUSE!

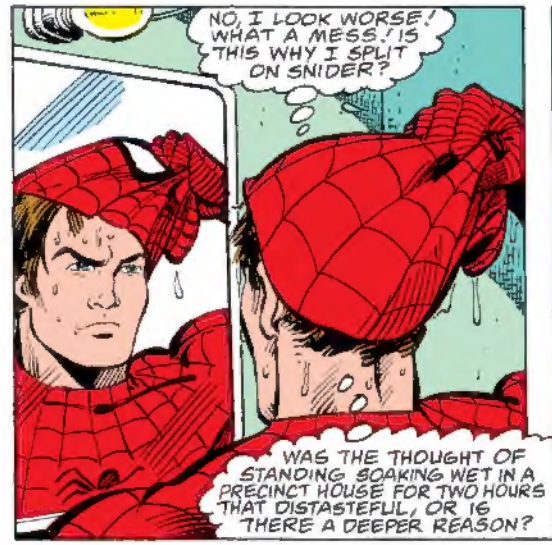
SORRY, SNIDER, BUT I'M COLD AND TIRED AND SORE. MAYBE SOME OTHER TIME!
HEY!
NO JUMPING

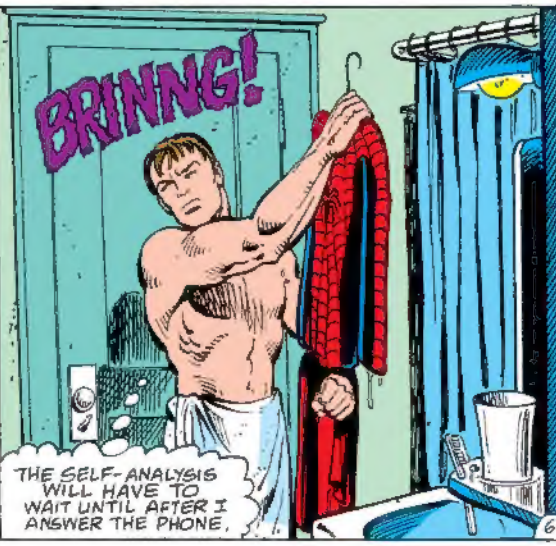
THE NEXT INSTANT, THIRTY FEET UP AND ACROSS THE STREET..
NOW, WHY DID I DO THAT? SNIDER WAS ACTUALLY BEING CIVIL TO ME-- NOT LIKE THAT LT. KEATING CHARACTER AND HIS SWAT-TEAM JOY-BOYS!*
IF I'D GONE ALONG WITH SNIDER, IT MIGHT HAVE GAINED ME A LOT OF POINTS WITH THE POLICE--
*SEE ISSUE #46.-- DENNY.

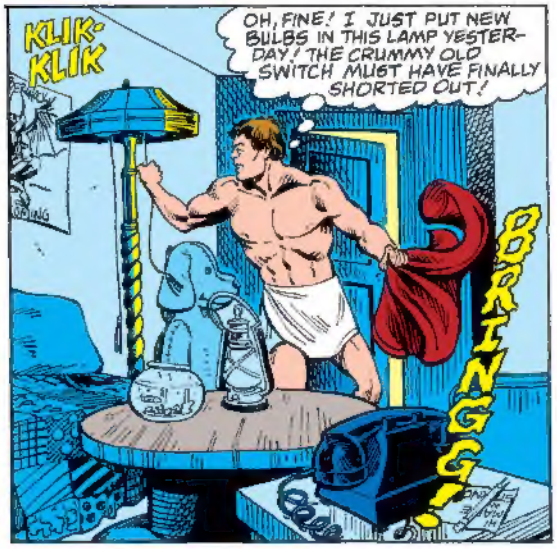
--AND I HAVEN'T REALLY BEEN ON N.Y.P.D'S LIST OF GOOD BOYS SINCE THE D.A. CLEARED ME OF THOSE EARLIER MURDER CHARGES!*
DON'T LET ME INTERRUPT YOU, FELLA! OH, I THINK YOU'LL FIND MORE SMOKE THAN FIRE IN THERE! TA-TAH!
*AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #186.-- D.

THAT'S IT, PARKER! KEEP IT LIGHT AND EVERYONE WILL IGNORE YOUR LITTLE LAPSES IN JUDGMENT, RIGHT?
WRONG! REAL WRONG!


WITHIN SECONDS, SPIDER-MAN ALIGHTS ON THE ROOF OF 410 CHELSEA STREET, AND ENTERS HIS APARTMENT THROUGH THE SKYLIGHT...
BROTHER, WHAT A NIGHT!
I WONDER IF I LOOK AS BAD AS I FEEL?


NO, I LOOK WORSE! WHAT A MESS! IS THIS WHY I SPLIT ON SNIDER?
WAS THE THOUGHT OF STANDING SOAKING WET IN A PRECINCT HOUSE FOR TWO HOURS THAT DISTASTEFUL, OR IS THERE A DEEPER REASON?

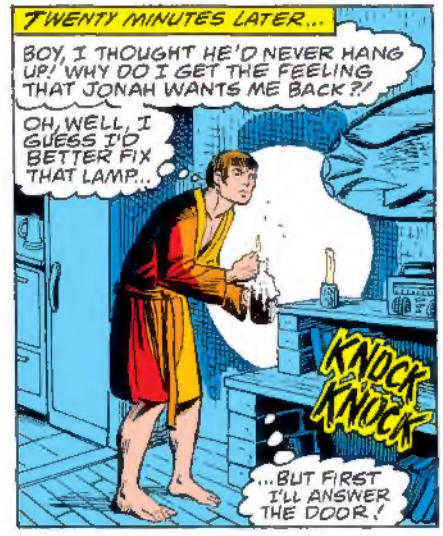

BRINNG!
THE SELF-ANALYSIS WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER I ANSWER THE PHONE.


KLIK-KLIK
OH, FINE! I JUST PUT NEW BULBS IN THIS LAMP YESTERDAY! THE CRUMMY OLD SWITCH MUST HAVE FINALLY SHORTED OUT!
BRINGGG!

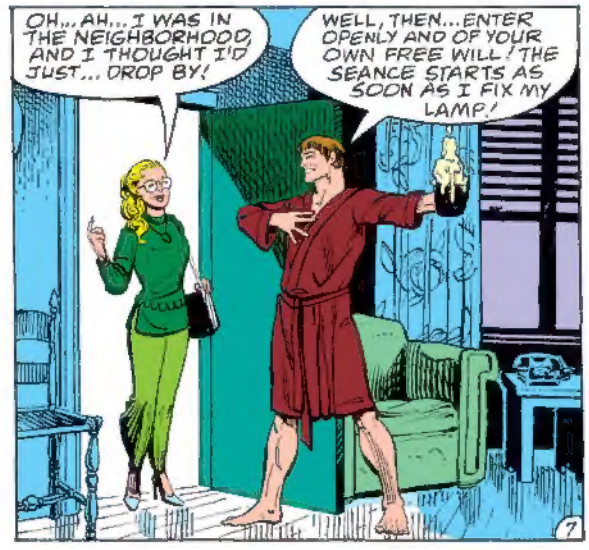
HELLO--PARKER HERE!
WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU GOT HOME!
JONAH? IS THAT YOU?

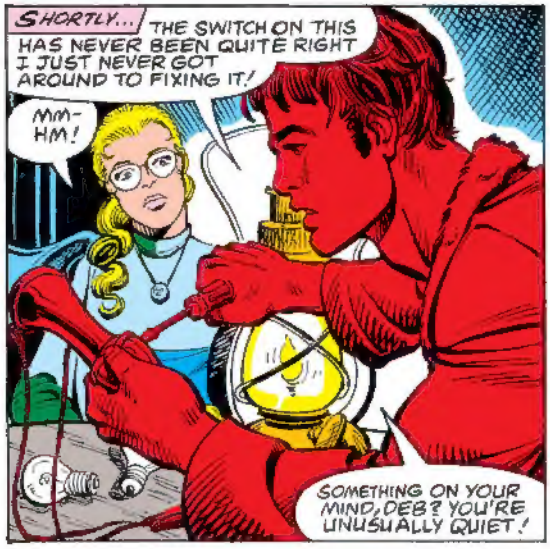
OF COURSE IT'S ME! THEY CAN'T KEEP J. JONAH JAMESON OUT OF CIRCULATION FOR LONG! ROBBIE TELLS ME YOU'RE STILL WORKING FOR THAT RAG, THE GLOBE!
WELL, JONAH, YOU DID FIRE ME... AND THE GLOBE DOES PAY BETTER!

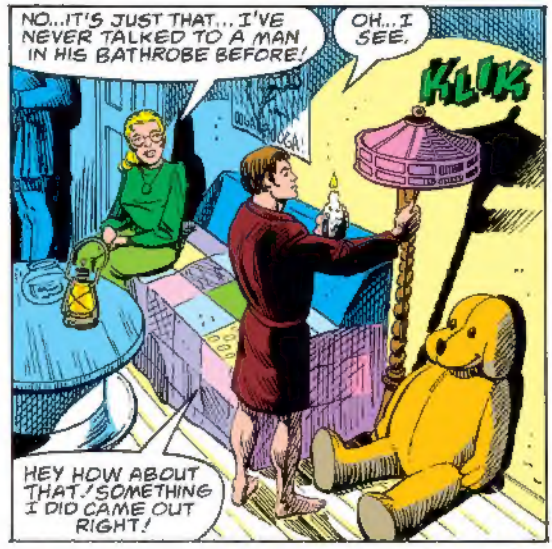
SO THAT'S IT! YOU'RE SO WILLING TO SELL OUT YOUR FRIENDS HERE AT THE BUGLE FOR A FEW EXTRA BUCKS, EH? WHY, WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE--!


TWENTY MINUTES LATER...
BOY, I THOUGHT HE'D NEVER HANG UP! WHY DO I GET THE FEELING THAT JONAH WANTS ME BACK?!
OH, WELL, I GUESS I'D BETTER FIX THAT LAMP...
KNOCK KNOCK
...BUT FIRST I'LL ANSWER THE DOOR!

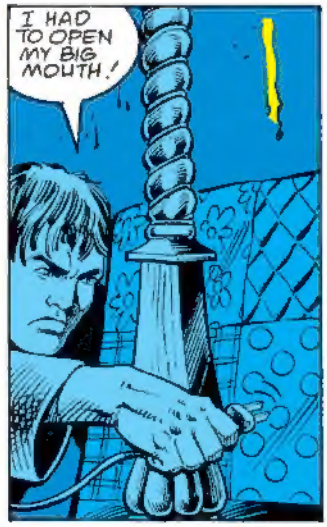
YES?
OH! PETER, YOU GAVE ME SUCH A START!
DEB? DEB WHITMAN? WHAT'RE YOU--?

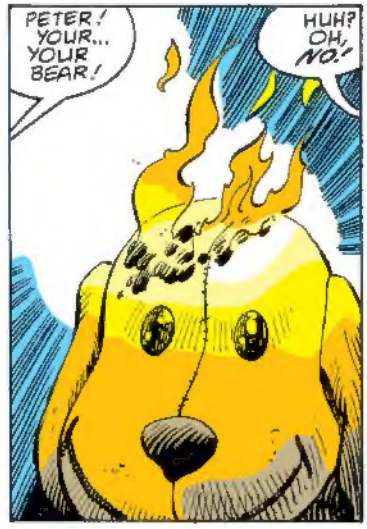

OH... AH... I WAS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, AND I THOUGHT I'D JUST... DROP BY!
WELL, THEN... ENTER OPENLY AND OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL! THE SEANCE STARTS AS SOON AS I FIX MY LAMP!


SHORTLY...
THE SWITCH ON THIS HAS NEVER BEEN QUITE RIGHT I JUST NEVER GOT AROUND TO FIXING IT!
MM-HM!
SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND, DEB? YOU'RE UNUSUALLY QUIET!


NO...IT'S JUST THAT... I'VE NEVER TALKED TO A MAN IN HIS BATHROBE BEFORE!
OH... I SEE.
KLIK
HEY HOW ABOUT THAT! SOMETHING I DID CAME OUT RIGHT!

BUT THEN...


I HAD TO OPEN MY BIG MOUTH!


PETER! YOUR... YOUR BEAR!
HUH? OH, NO!

QUICK! LET'S THROW IT IN THE BATHTUB!
YEAH, I... NO! NO, NOT THE BATHTUB! I... UH... I HAVE SOME PHOTO-CHEMICALS IN THE BATHROOM--

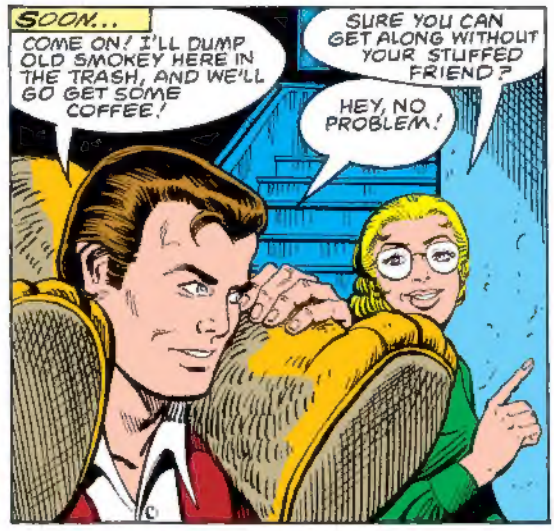
-- AND THEY MIGHT EXPLODE! I KNOW! WE'LL USE THESE CURTAINS TO SMOTHER THE FIRE!

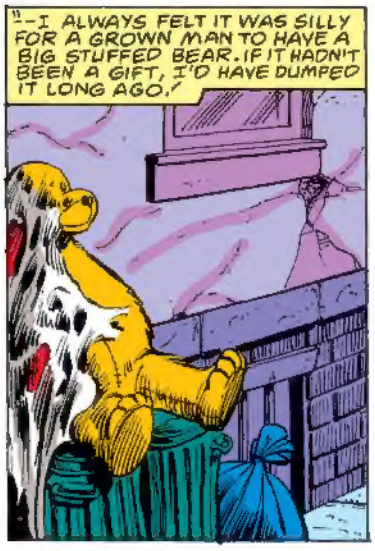
AND THEN I WON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN WHY A SPIDER-MAN SUIT IS HANGING IN MY BATHROOM.
THERE! THE FIRE'S OUT!

--AND THERE'S NOTHING TO... WORRY... ABOUT?
EXCEPT HOW TO UNSTICK A MESS OF FIBERGLASS CURTAINS.

AND THE DAY STARTED OUT SO WELL!

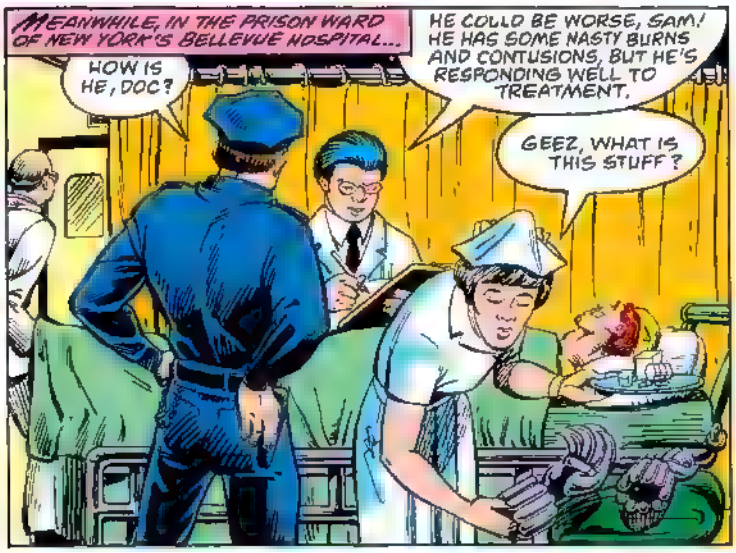
HA-HA-HA! OH, PETER--FORGIVE ME, BUT THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE! HAH-HA!
I DO LOOK PRETTY FUNNY, DON'T I--?

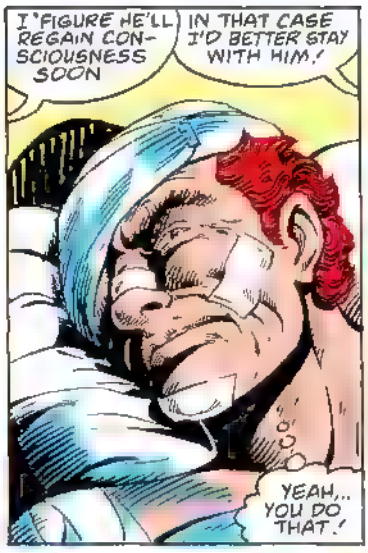

SOON...
COME ON! I'LL DUMP OLD SMOKEY HERE IN THE TRASH, AND WE'LL GO GET SOME COFFEE!
SURE YOU CAN GET ALONG WITHOUT YOUR STUFFED FRIEND?
HEY, NO PROBLEM!

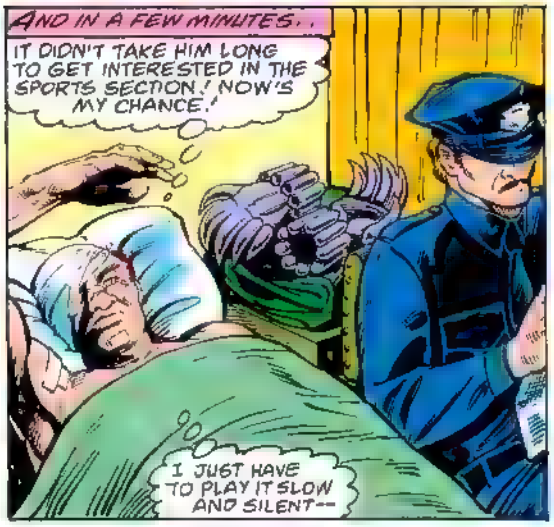

"--I ALWAYS FELT IT WAS SILLY FOR A GROWN MAN TO HAVE A BIG STUFFED BEAR. IF IT HADN'T BEEN A GIFT, I'D HAVE DUMPED IT LONG AGO.'

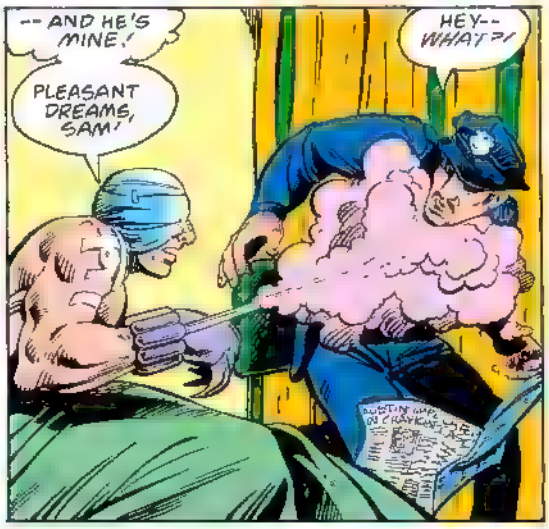
"AT LEAST I FINALLY HAVE AN EXCUSE TO GET RID OF IT!"
GOLLY!

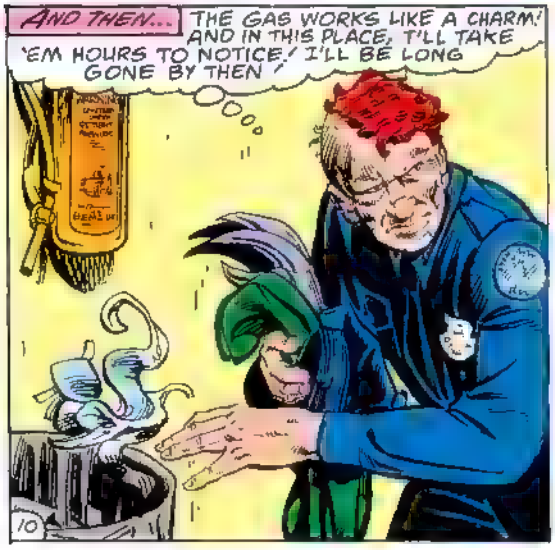
WHAT A NEAT BEAR! IT'S AMAZING WHAT SOME PEOPLE WILL THROW OUT! A LITTLE WORK, AND HE'LL BE AS GOOD AS NEW!

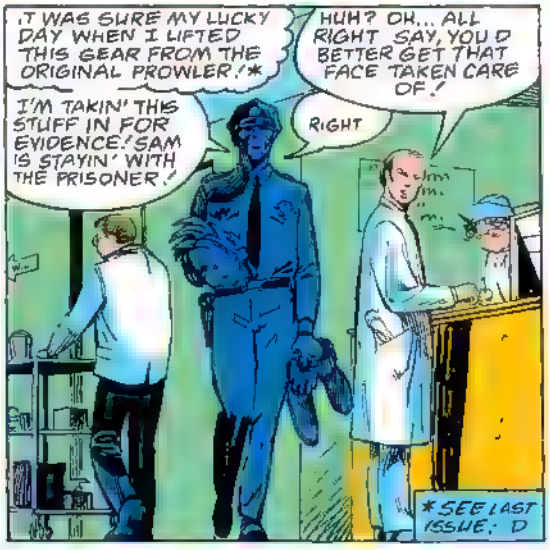

MEANWHILE, IN THE PRISON WARD OF NEW YORK'S BELLEVUE HOSPITAL...
HOW IS HE, DOC?
HE COULD BE WORSE, SAM! HE HAS SOME NASTY BURNS AND CONTUSIONS, BUT HE'S RESPONDING WELL TO TREATMENT.
GEEZ, WHAT IS THIS STUFF?

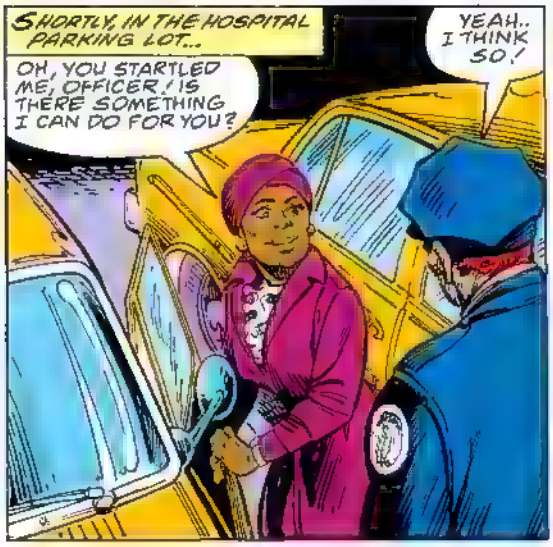

I'FIGURE HE'LL REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS SOON
IN THAT CASE I'D BETTER STAY WITH HIM!
YEAH... YOU DO THAT!

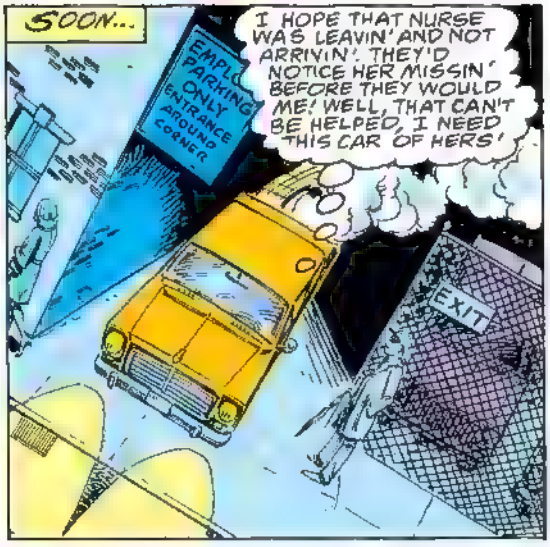

AND IN A FEW MINUTES...
IT DIDN'T TAKE HIM LONG TO GET INTERESTED IN THE SPORTS SECTION! NOW'S MY CHANCE!
I JUST HAVE TO PLAY IT SLOW AND SILENT--

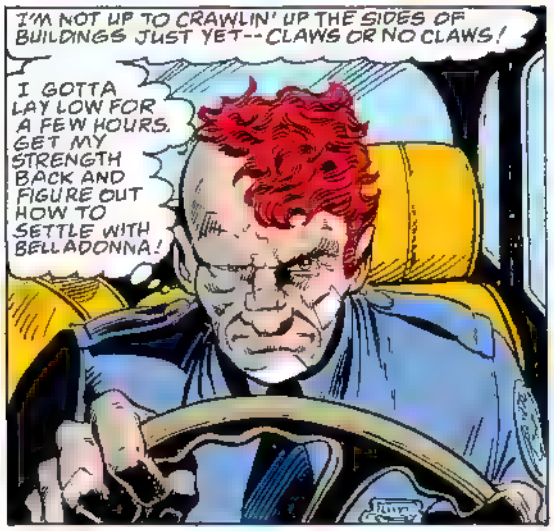

-- AND HE'S MINE!
PLEASANT DREAMS, SAM!
HEY-- WHAT?!

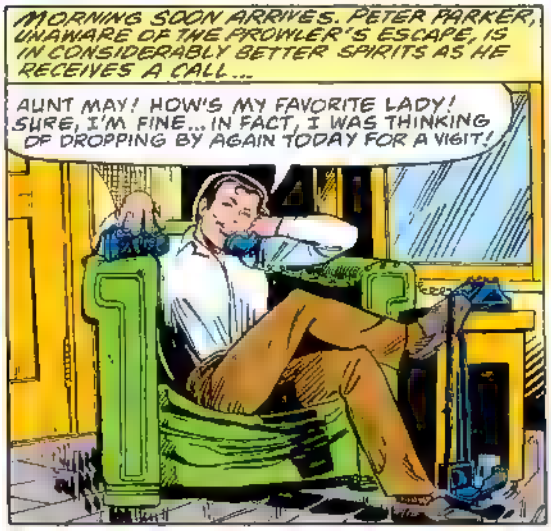

AND THEN...
THE GAS WORKS LIKE A CHARM! AND IN THIS PLACE, I'LL TAKE 'EM HOURS TO NOTICE! I'LL BE LONG GONE BY THEN!

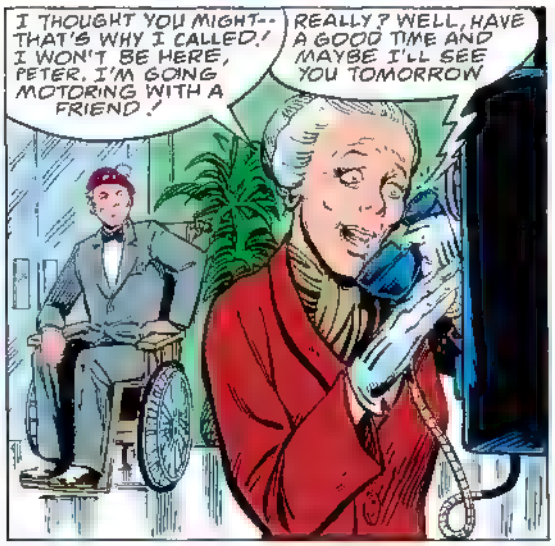

IT WAS SURE MY LUCKY DAY WHEN I LIFTED THIS GEAR FROM THE ORIGINAL PROWLER!*
I'M TAKIN' THIS STUFF IN FOR EVIDENCE! SAM IS STAYIN' WITH THE PRISONER!
HUH? OH... ALL RIGHT SAY, YOU'D BETTER GET THAT FACE TAKEN CARE OF!
RIGHT
*SEE LAST ISSUE: D


SHORTLY, IN THE HOSPITAL PARKING LOT...
OH, YOU STARTLED ME, OFFICER! IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?
YEAH.. I THINK SO!

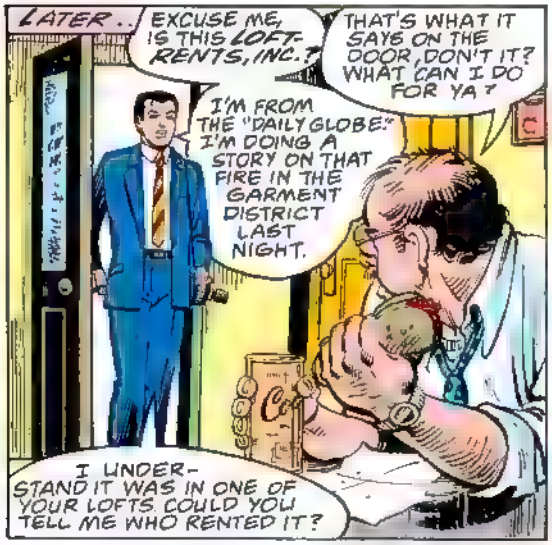

SOON...
EMPL PARKING ONLY ENTRANCE AROUND CORNER
I HOPE THAT NURSE WAS LEAVIN' AND NOT ARRIVIN'. THEY'D NOTICE HER MISSIN' BEFORE THEY WOULD ME! WELL, THAT CAN'T BE HELPED, I NEED THIS CAR OF HERS!
EXIT

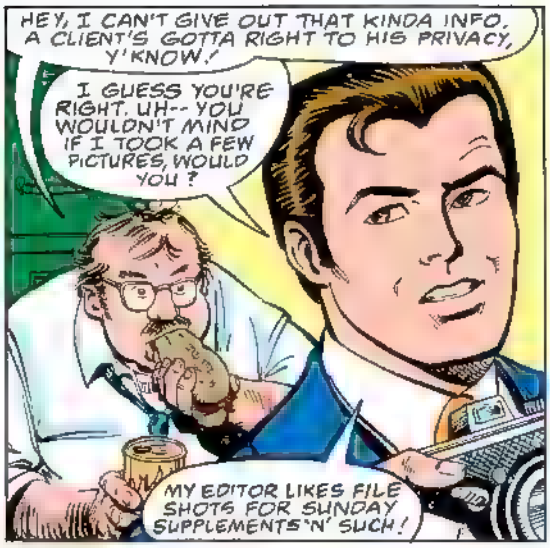

I'M NOT UP TO CRAWLIN' UP THE SIDES OF BUILDINGS JUST YET--CLAWS OR NO CLAWS!
I GOTTA LAY LOW FOR A FEW HOURS. GET MY STRENGTH BACK AND FIGURE OUT HOW TO SETTLE WITH BELLADONNA!

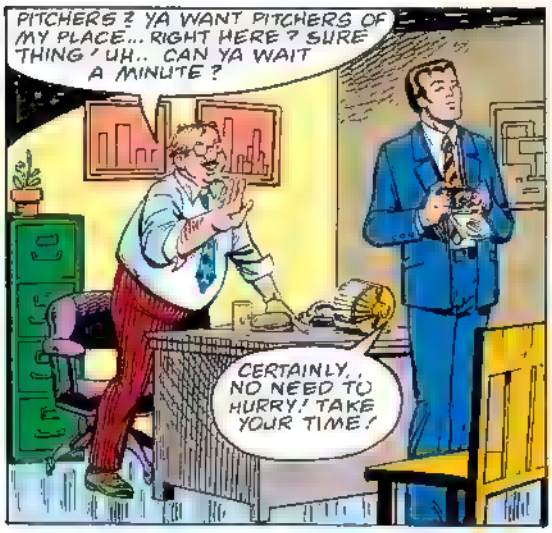

MORNING SOON ARRIVES. PETER PARKER, UNAWARE OF THE PROWLER'S ESCAPE, IS IN CONSIDERABLY BETTER SPIRITS AS HE RECEIVES A CALL...
AUNT MAY! HOW'S MY FAVORITE LADY! SURE, I'M FINE... IN FACT, I WAS THINKING OF DROPPING BY AGAIN TODAY FOR A VISIT!


I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT-- THAT'S WHY I CALLED! I WON'T BE HERE, PETER. I'M GOING MOTORING WITH A FRIEND!
REALLY? WELL, HAVE A GOOD TIME AND MAYBE I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW

IT'S GOOD TO HEAR HER IN SUCH GOOD SPIRITS! I FELT SO GUILTY WHEN SHE HAD TO GO INTO THAT NURSING HOME BUT IT ACTUALLY SEEMS TO HAVE DONE HER SOME GOOD!
WELL, AS MAY'S NOT GOING TO BE HOME, AND I DON'T HAVE ANY CLASSES TODAY-- THERE'S ANOTHER LITTLE ERRAND I OUGHT TO PERFORM!

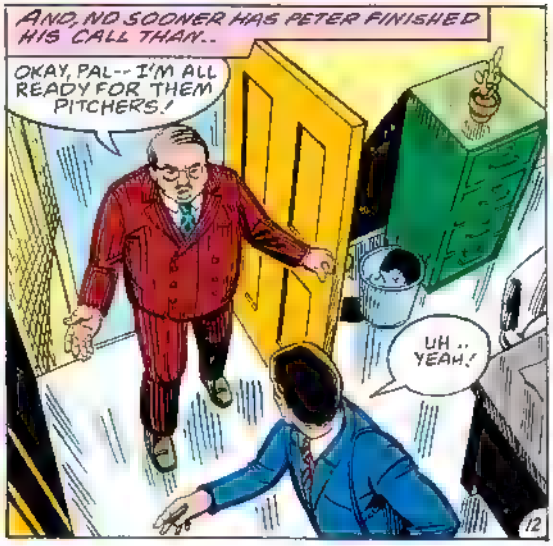

LATER..
EXCUSE ME, IS THIS LOFT-RENTS, INC.?
THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS ON THE DOOR, DON'T IT? WHAT CAN I DO FOR YA?
I'M FROM THE "DAILY GLOBE." I'M DOING A STORY ON THAT FIRE IN THE GARMENT DISTRICT LAST NIGHT.
I UNDER-STAND IT WAS IN ONE OF YOUR LOFTS. COULD YOU TELL ME WHO RENTED IT?

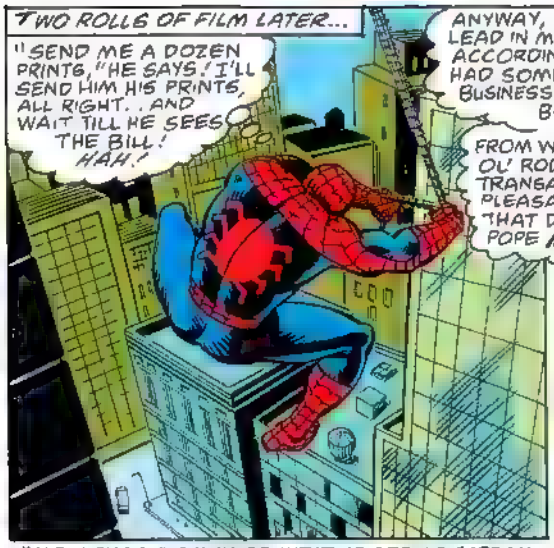

HEY, I CAN'T GIVE OUT THAT KINDA INFO. A CLIENT'S GOTTA RIGHT TO HIS PRIVACY, Y'KNOW!
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. UH-- YOU WOULDN'T MIND IF I TOOK A FEW PICTURES, WOULD YOU?
MY EDITOR LIKES FILE SHOTS FOR SUNDAY SUPPLEMENTS 'N' SUCH!


PITCHERS? YA WANT PITCHERS OF MY PLACE... RIGHT HERE? SURE THING! UH.. CAN YA WAIT A MINUTE?
CERTAINLY.. NO NEED TO HURRY! TAKE YOUR TIME!

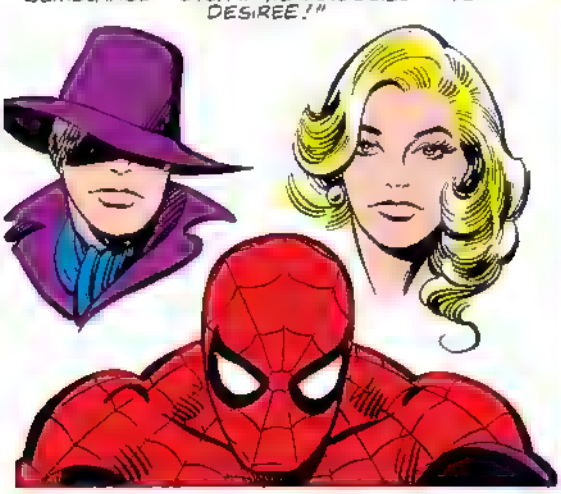
WHILE YOU'RE GONE, I'LL JUST TAKE A PEEK AT YOUR FILE OF RENTERS!
AH-- HERE'S THE ADDRESS! THE LOFT WITH BELLADONNA'S DEATH-TRAP WAS RENTED BY... DESIREE VAUGHN-POPE!

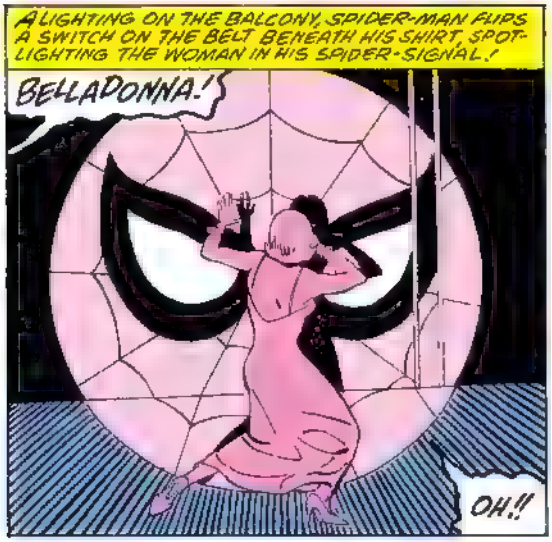
SUDDENLY, A LOT OF THINGS ARE FALLING INTO PLACE! MRS. VAUGHN-POPE FINGERED SPIDER-MAN IN THAT KILLING! AND, LIKE BELLADONNA, SHE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE TOO FOND OF THE NAME "RODERICK KINGSLEY!" *
THINK I'LL CHECK THIS OUT WITH MY "FASHION EXPERT" AT THE GLOBE!
HELLO, SANDY JONES? PARKER HERE! WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT DESIREE VAUGHN-POPE?
* SEE LAST ISSUE:- D.

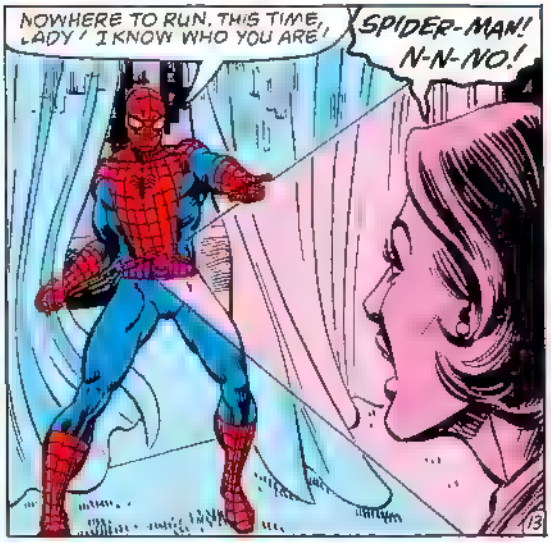

AND, NO SOONER HAS PETER FINISHED HIS CALL THAN..
OKAY, PAL-- I'M ALL READY FOR THEM PITCHERS!
UH.. YEAH!



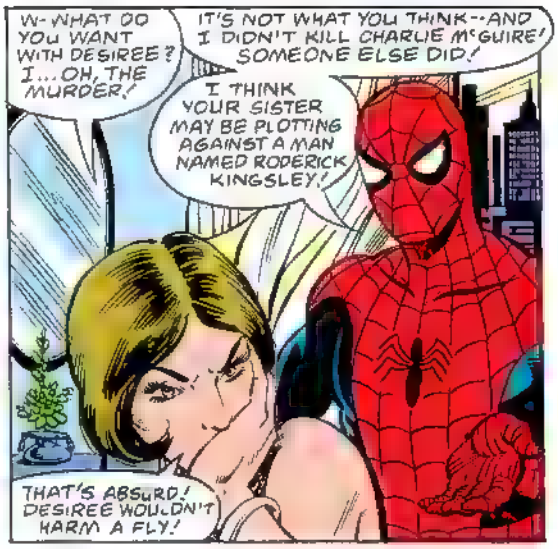
"NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IT SEEMS SCREAMINGLY CLEAR! BELLADONNA BEARS QUITE A RESEMBLANCE -- EVEN IN HER DISGUISE -- TO DESIREE!"

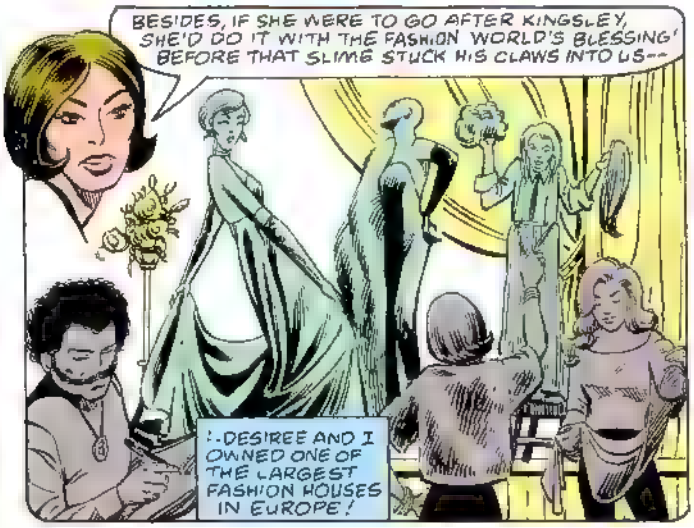


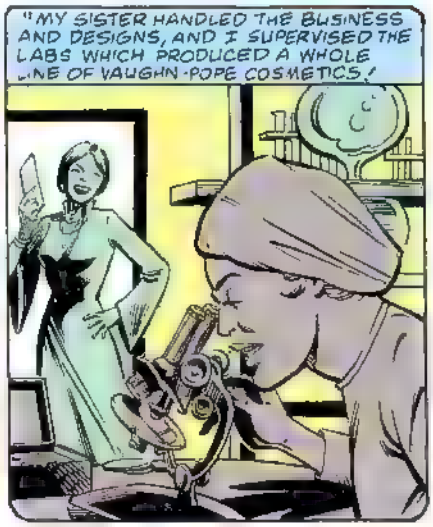




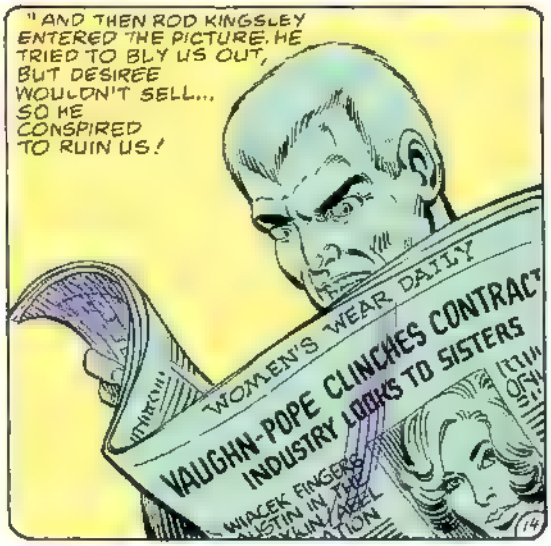
HEY, YOU'RE NOT DESIREE VAUGHN-POPE!
NO. NO, I'M HER SISTER! I-I'M NARDA .. NARDA RAVANNA!
WELL, I'VE DONE IT AGAIN!
MY APOLOGY, MS RAVANNA! I WAS LOOKING FOR YOUR SISTER!

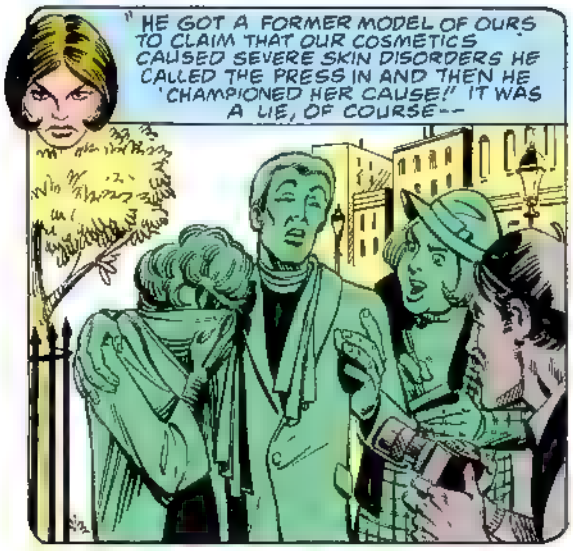

W-WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH DESIREE? I... OH, THE MURDER!
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK--AND I DIDN'T KILL CHARLIE McGUIRE! SOMEONE ELSE DID!
I THINK YOUR SISTER MAY BE PLOTTING AGAINST A MAN NAMED RODERICK KINGSLEY!
THAT'S ABSURD! DESIREE WOULDN'T HARM A FLY!

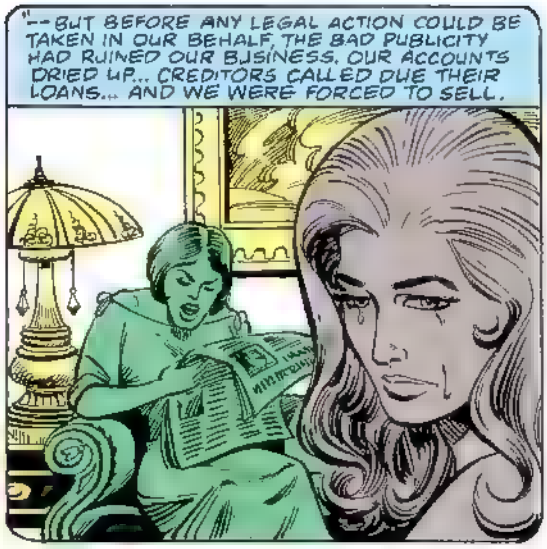

BESIDES, IF SHE WERE TO GO AFTER KINGSLEY, SHE'D DO IT WITH THE FASHION WORLD'S BLESSING! BEFORE THAT SLIME STUCK HIS CLAWS INTO US--
!-DESIREE AND I OWNED ONE OF THE LARGEST FASHION HOUSES IN EUROPE!

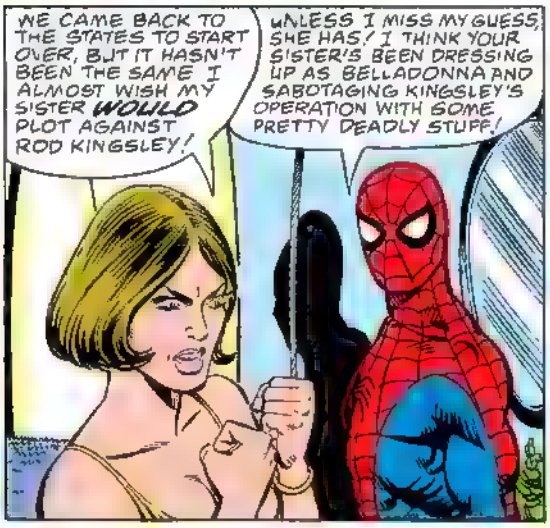

"MY SISTER HANDLED THE BUSINESS AND DESIGNS, AND I SUPERVISED THE LABS WHICH PRODUCED A WHOLE LINE OF VAUGHN-POPE COSMETICS!

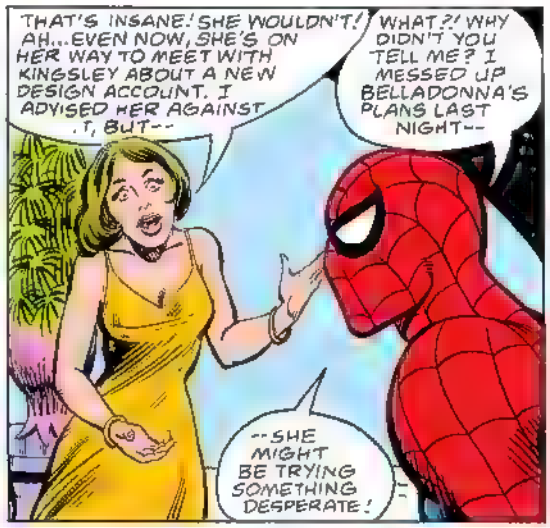
YOU SEE, DESIREE HAD INHERITED THE BUSINESS FROM HER SECOND HUSBAND--AND THE TWO OF US BUILT IT INTO A FASHION EMPIRE!
"IT WAS THE HAPPIEST TIME OF OUR LIVES!


"AND THEN ROD KINGSLEY ENTERED THE PICTURE. HE TRIED TO BLY US OUT, BUT DESIREE WOULDN'T SELL... SO HE CONSPIRED TO RUIN US!
WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY
VAUGHN-POPE CLINCHES CONTRACT
INDUSTRY LOOKS TO SISTERS


"HE GOT A FORMER MODEL OF OURS TO CLAIM THAT OUR COSMETICS CAUSED SEVERE SKIN DISORDERS HE CALLED THE PRESS IN AND THEN HE 'CHAMPIONED HER CAUSE!' IT WAS A LIE, OF COURSE--

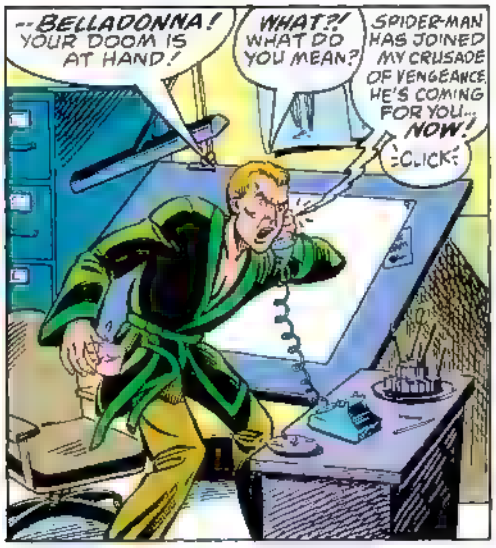

"--BUT BEFORE ANY LEGAL ACTION COULD BE TAKEN IN OUR BEHALF, THE BAD PUBLICITY HAD RUINED OUR BUSINESS. OUR ACCOUNTS DRIED UP... CREDITORS CALLED DUE THEIR LOANS... AND WE WERE FORCED TO SELL.

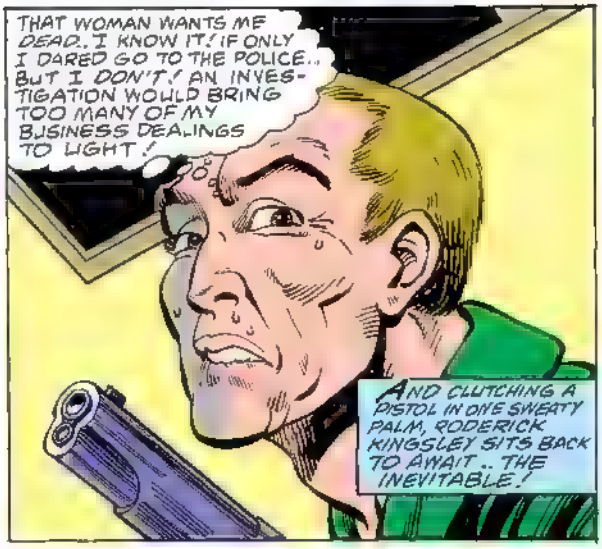

WE CAME BACK TO THE STATES TO START OVER, BUT IT HASN'T BEEN THE SAME I ALMOST WISH MY SISTER WOULD PLOT AGAINST ROD KINGSLEY!
UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, SHE HAS! I THINK YOUR SISTER'S BEEN DRESSING UP AS BELLADONNA AND SABOTAGING KINGSLEY'S OPERATION WITH SOME PRETTY DEADLY STUFF!

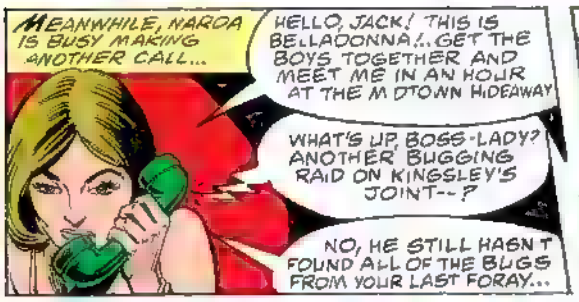

THAT'S INSANE! SHE WOULDN'T! AH...EVEN NOW, SHE'S ON HER WAY TO MEET WITH KINGSLEY ABOUT A NEW DESIGN ACCOUNT. I ADVISED HER AGAINST IT, BUT--
WHAT?! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME? I MESSED UP BELLADONNA'S PLANS LAST NIGHT--
--SHE MIGHT BE TRYING SOMETHING DESPERATE!

WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO KINGSLEY'S?!
SORRY, LADY! I HAVE TO STOP YOUR SISTER BEFORE SHE COMMITS ANY MORE MAYHEM!

BUT, ONCE SPIDER-MAN IS GONE...
THIS IS THE GREATEST STROKE OF LUCK IMAGINABLE... AND TO THINK HOW CLOSE I CAME TO GIVING IT ALL AWAY!
THE FOOL DOESN'T REALIZE HOW NEAR HE WAS TO THE TRUTH! AND NOW, HE'LL BE THE PERFECT FOIL FOR MY REVENGE!
HELLO, KINGSLEY! THIS IS--


--BELLADONNA! YOUR DOOM IS AT HAND!
WHAT?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SPIDER-MAN HAS JOINED MY CRUSADE OF VENGEANCE. HE'S COMING FOR YOU... NOW!
:CLICK:


THAT WOMAN WANTS ME DEAD. I KNOW IT! IF ONLY I DARED GO TO THE POLICE.. BUT I DON'T! AN INVESTIGATION WOULD BRING TOO MANY OF MY BUSINESS DEALINGS TO LIGHT!
AND CLUTCHING A PISTOL IN OYE SWEATY PALM, RODERICK KINGSLEY SITS BACK TO AWAIT.. THE INEVITABLE!


MEANWHILE, NARDA IS BUSY MAKING ANOTHER CALL...
HELLO, JACK! THIS IS BELLADONNA!.. GET THE BOYS TOGETHER AND MEET ME IN AN HOUR AT THE MIDTOWN HIDEAWAY
WHAT'S UP, BOSS-LADY? ANOTHER BUGGING RAID ON KINGSLEY'S JOINT--?
NO, HE STILL HASN'T FOUND ALL OF THE BUGS FROM YOUR LAST FORAY...

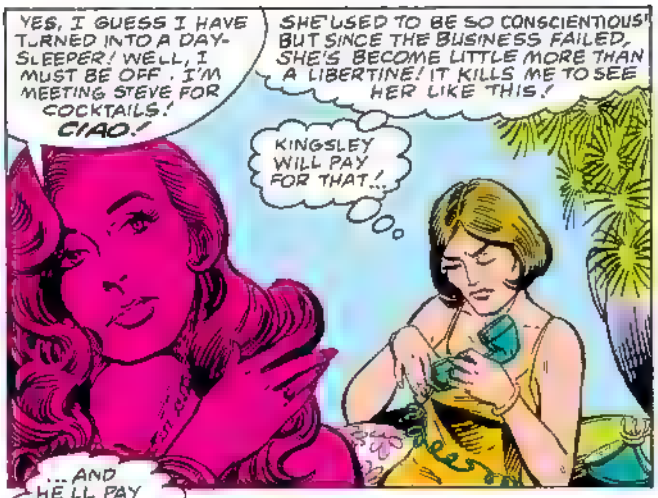
...I GUESS YOU'D SAY THIS IS THE BIG PAYOFF!
R-I-G-H-T! WE'LL BE READY!

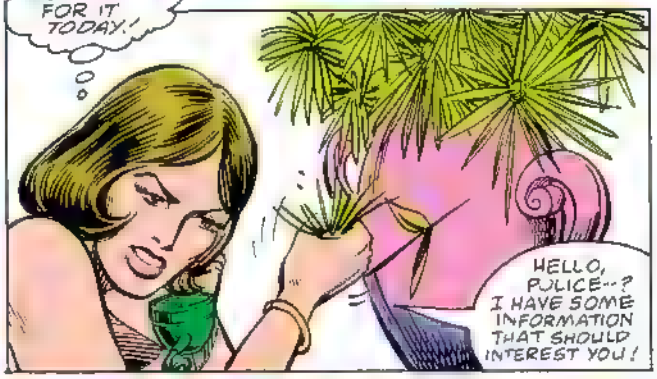
AT THAT MOMENT, SPIDER-MAN IS NEARING THE STUDIO OF ROD KINGSLEY...
THERE'S STILL SOMETHING THAT SMELLS ABOUT THIS WHOLE AFFAIR! IF ONLY I COULD PUT MY FINGER ON IT!
THE FINEST
Costumes

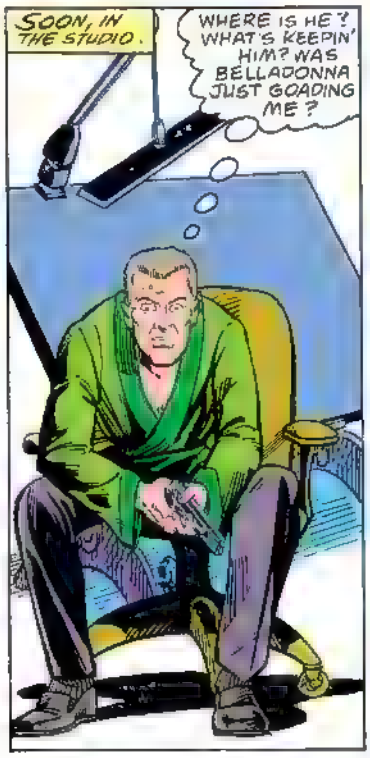
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY SOMEONE AS CLEVER AS BELLADONNA WOULD RENT THAT LOFT UNDER HER OWN NAME...

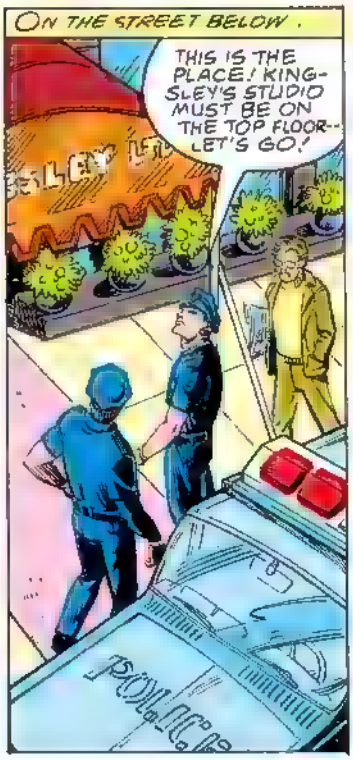
WELL, I GUESS I'LL SOON FIND OUT! THERE'S RODDY-BOY-- AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S WAITING FOR SOMEONE!
I WONDER SHOULD I BARGE IN NOW, OR LATER? HMMMMM

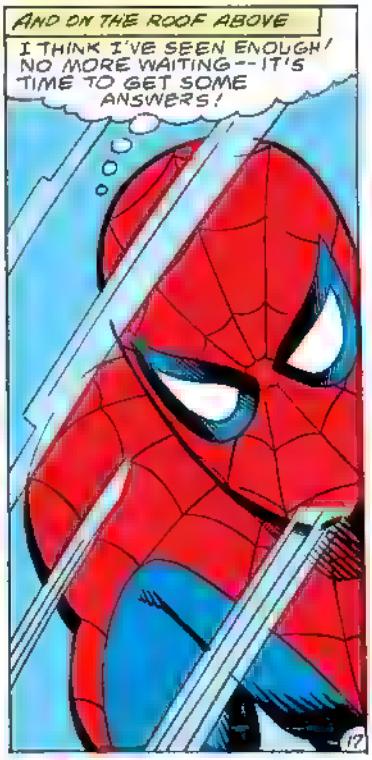
BACK AT THE SOND APARTMENT, A BEDROOM DOOR OPENS AND.
NARDA, I DIDN'T HEAR YOU ENTER!
YOU WERE SLEEPING SO SOUNDLY, I COULDN'T BEAR TO DISTURB YOU, DESIREE!

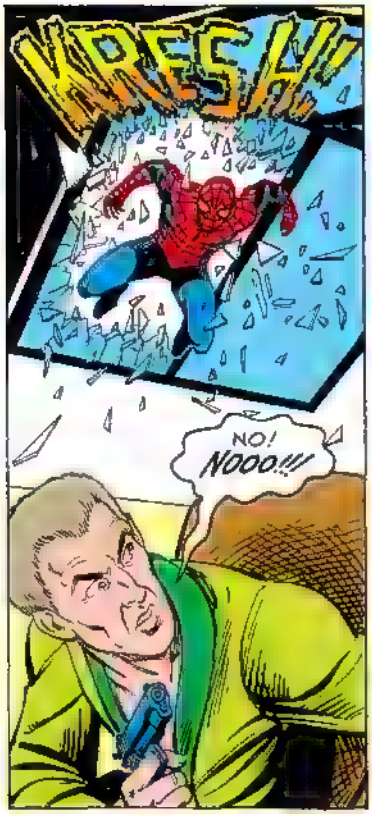

YES, I GUESS I HAVE TURNED INTO A DAY-SLEEPER! WELL, I MUST BE OFF. I'M MEETING STEVE FOR COCKTAILS! CIAO!
SHE USED TO BE SO CONSCIENTIOUS! BUT SINCE THE BUSINESS FAILED, SHE'S BECOME LITTLE MORE THAN A LIBERTINE! IT KILLS ME TO SEE HER LIKE THIS!
KINGSLEY WILL PAY FOR THAT...


...AND HE'LL PAY FOR IT TODAY!
HELLO, POLICE--? I HAVE SOME INFORMATION THAT SHOULD INTEREST YOU!


SOON, IN THE STUDIO.
WHERE IS HE? WHAT'S KEEPIN' HIM? WAS BELLADONNA JUST GOADING ME?


ON THE STREET BELOW.
THIS IS THE PLACE! KINGSLEY'S STUDIO MUST BE ON THE TOP FLOOR-- LET'S GO!


AND ON THE ROOF ABOVE
I THINK I'VE SEEN ENOUGH! NO MORE WAITING--IT'S TIME TO GET SOME ANSWERS!


KRESH!
NO! NOOO!!!

KEEP AWAY FROM ME, DO YOU HEAR! I DON'T KNOW WHAT BELLADONNA TOLD YOU, BUT IT MUST HAVE BEEN A LIE A LIE..
PTOW PTOW PTOW PTOW

KINGSLEY LOWERS THE SMOKING GUN, LITTLE SUSPECTING THAT A HIDDEN LISTENING DEVICE HAS HEARD ALL!
THIS IS THE POLICE! OPEN UP IN THERE!
OH, GOD! WHAT HAVE I DONE?

HE.. HE ATTACKED ME! IT WAS SELF-DEFENSE!
JUST... GIVE ME THE GUN, WILL YA'?
NORM, BETTER RADIO FOR A MEAT-WAGON!

...'CAUSE FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS... THIS DUDE'S JUST KILLED SPIDER-MAN!
GLORIOUS DAY! THIS IS MORE THAN I EVER COULD HAVE HOPED FOR!

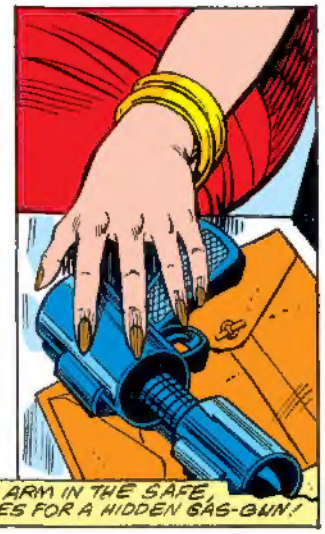
SHUTTING OFF HER LISTENING DEVICE, NARDA RUSHES OUT INTO THE STREETS OF SOHO TO HAIL A CAB, UNAWARE OF THE SHADOWY FIGURE WHICH WATCHES HER FROM A HIGH VANTAGE POINT!
THERE SHE GOES! SHE WON'T LOSE ME NOW!
TAXI
THIS IS PERFECT! ONCE I CLOSE UP SHOP AT MY HIDEAWAY, MADAM BELLADONNA WILL DISAPPEAR INTO THE NIGHT, WITH NOTHING TO LINK ME TO HER ESCAPADES!
SOON, AT THE HIDEAWAY...
AT LAST, MY REVENGE IS NEARLY COMPLETE! KINGSLEY IS RUINED, SPIDER-MAN IS DEAD... AND I HAVE JUST ONE THING LEFT TO DO!
THAT'S RIGHT, LADY... ONE LAST THING!
OH, NO! NOT YOU!
THOUGHT YA'D GOTTEN RID OF ME, HUH? THOUGHT YA COULD USE ME THEN LEAVE ME TO ROT IN PRISON--?
WELL, LADY--THERE'S A MURDER RAP HANGIN' OVER ME NOW! AND I FIGURE ONE MORE WON'T LEAVE ME ANY WORSE OFF!
PROWLER--RED, LISTEN! I DIDN'T WANT THIS TO HAPPEN TO YOU...IT'S ALL SPIDER-MAN'S FAULT! I CAN HELP YOU--GET YOU A DOCTOR--MONEY!

I CAN FIND MY OWN DOCTOR, BUT MONEY SOUNDS JUST FINE! YOU OWE ME PLENTY, LADY! YA' KNOW, NOW THAT I'VE FINALLY SEEN YOUR FACE... WELL, IT'D BE A SHAME IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO IT!
GOT TO STALL UNTIL THE BOYS SHOW UP...

"...THEY SHOULD BE HERE BY NOW! WHAT'S KEEPING THEM?"
BLASTED SLOW ELEVATORS! WHY'D SHE HAVE TO GET A PLACE ON THE TOP FLOOR?

COME ON, BELLA... DON'T MAKE ME GET ROUGH!
IT'S ALMOST...
...THERE!

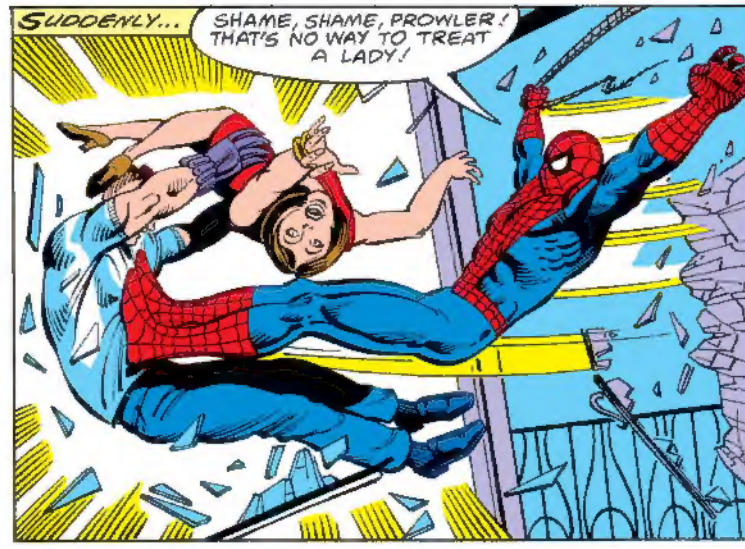
HERE, PROWLER-- 75 THOUSAND! IT'S ALL THE CASH I HAVE ON HAND... BUT I CAN GET MORE!
I CAN GET A LOT MORE!


KEEPING ONE ARM IN THE SAFE, NARDA REACHES FOR A HIDDEN GAS-GUN!

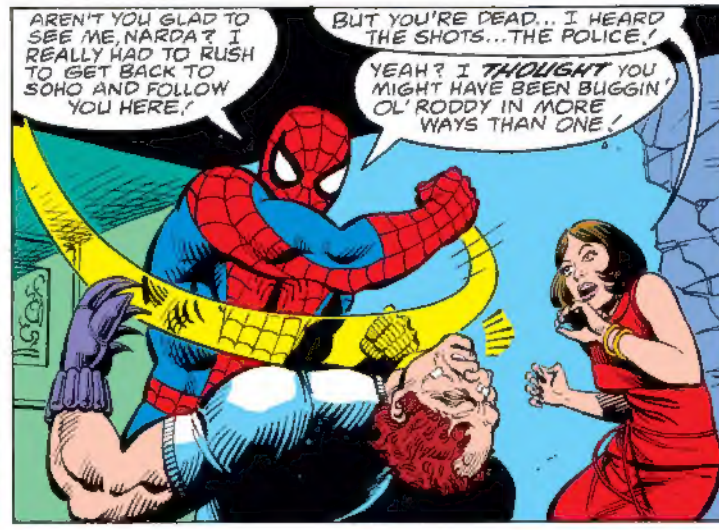
BUT...
NO, YA DON'T!

STOP! WHAT ARE YOU DOING! PUT ME DOWN!
I'M NOT GIVING YOU THE CHANCE TO MUCK ME OVER AGAIN, BELLA! DO YOU KNOW HOW CHARLIE McGUIRE DIED WHEN HE TANGLED WITH ME?

NO! NO, PLEASE!
YEAH...HE TOOK THE BIG DIVE! JUST LIKE THE ONE YOU'RE GONNA TAKE!


SUDDENLY...
SHAME, SHAME, PROWLER! THAT'S NO WAY TO TREAT A LADY!

AT THAT MOMENT, OUTSIDE THE APARTMENT HIDEAWAY...
MANNY... MOE... YOU GUYS HEAR THAT?
14F
YEAH! SOUNDS LIKE A FIGHT! UNLOCK THE DOOR...HURRY!


AREN'T YOU GLAD TO SEE ME, NARDA? I REALLY HAD TO RUSH TO GET BACK TO SOHO AND FOLLOW YOU HERE!
BUT YOU'RE DEAD... I HEARD THE SHOTS...THE POLICE!
YEAH? I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN BUGGIN' OL' RODDY IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!

YOU SEE, I HAD THIS FEELING...AND IT FINALLY SUNK IN THAT SOMEONE WHO'D SUPERVISED A COSMETICS LAB WAS A MUCH BETTER CANDIDATE FOR BELLADONNA!
THEN I NOTICED RODDYBOY'S GUN. SO I DECIDED TO RUN A LITTLE SCAM. THERE'S A COSTUMER'S NEXT DOOR TO RODDY'S PLACE.
AND THEY HAD THIS MANNEQUIN WITH THE NICEST SPIDER-MAN SUIT YOU EVER SAW IN THEIR STOREROOM. WELL, IT USED TO BE IN THE STOREROOM.
HOLY--!
WELL, WHAT HAVE HERE...THE PEP BOYS?

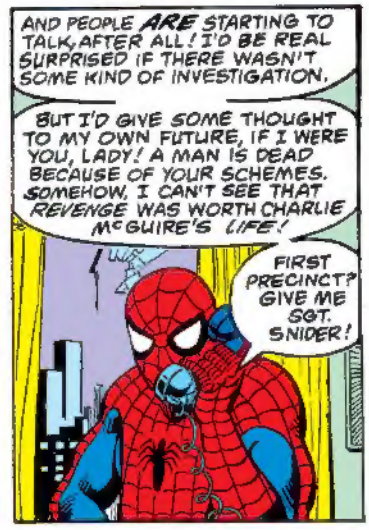
BDAM! BDAM!
NOT NICE, FELLAS! IF YOU SHOOT ME, I'LL JUST HAVE TO SHOOT YOU, TOO!

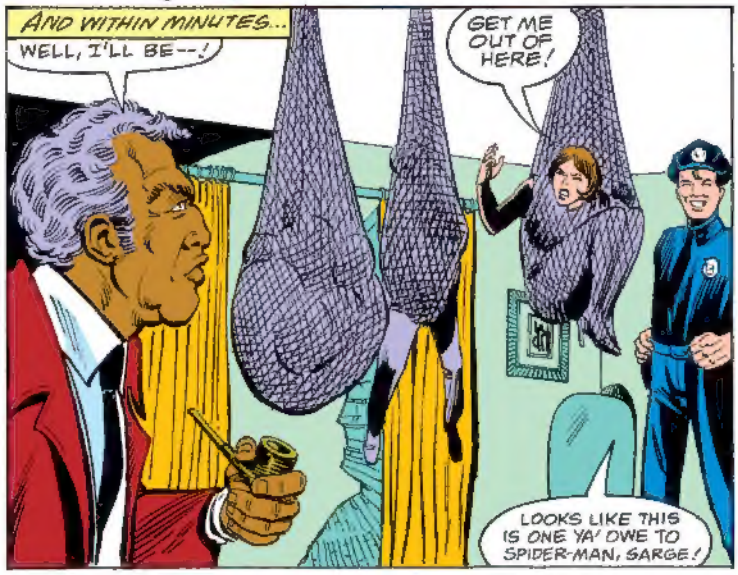
WHA--? HE GUMMED UP MY WHOLE HAND... GUN AND ALL!
ONE SIDE, MANNY-- GIVE US A CHANCE!
4F

YOU BOYS WANT A CHANCE? ALL RIGHT, BUT DON'T SAY YOU DIDN'T ASK FOR IT!
TSK-TSK! YOU GUYS ARE LESS OF A CHALLENGE THAN THE PROWLER WAS... AND HE'S BEEN SICK!
KRHK

OH, AND I'M NOT FORGETTING YOU, MANNY--NIGHTY-NIGHT!
WUD!

Y-YOU'VE BEATEN ME! I HAVE FAILED, AND KINGSLEY IS STILL FREE!
WELL, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT! THE POLICE WILL HOLD HIM FOR A WHILE...


AND PEOPLE ARE STARTING TO TALK, AFTER ALL! I'D BE REAL SURPRISED IF THERE WASN'T SOME KIND OF INVESTIGATION.
BUT I'D GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO MY OWN FUTURE, IF I WERE YOU, LADY! A MAN IS DEAD BECAUSE OF YOUR SCHEMES. SOMEHOW, I CAN'T SEE THAT REVENGE WAS WORTH CHARLIE McGUIRE'S LIFE!
FIRST PRECINCT? GIVE ME SGT. SNIDER!


AND WITHIN MINUTES...
WELL, I'LL BE--!
GET ME OUT OF HERE!
LOOKS LIKE THIS IS ONE YA' OWE TO SPIDER-MAN, SARGE!

AND, ON A NEARBY BUILDING...
I HOPE THAT HELPS SQUARE THINGS WITH SNIDER A LITTLE! HEY! I GUESS I WON ONE FOR A CHANGE!
OF COURSE, WITH MY LUCK, I COULD BE WRONG!
AND, AS TWIGHLIGHT GIVES WAY TO THE DARKNESS, THE WEARY WEB-SLINGER HEAVES A SIGH OF RESIGNATION... CERTAIN THAT TOMORROW WILL BRING A NEW SET OF ADVENTURES... AND PROBLEMS!
NEXT: NEVER THE END
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